9/24/67
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OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING SA WARREN C. DEBRUEYS

SYNOPSIS: SA DeBrueys apparently went to Dallas from N.O. after the assassination, and aided in the investigation. He may have attended interrogations of Oswald. His report of October 25, 1963, on Oswald's FPCC activities, seems to have been omitted from the 26 volumes.

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(1) <u>Allegation that DeBrueys followed Oswald to Dallas:</u>

Jim Garrison has said that "when Oswald moved to Dallas, DeBrueys followed him" (*Playboy* interview, p. 172). Harold Weisberg wrote that "he moved to Dallas after Oswald did" (*Whitewash*, p. 267). The evidence cited there (3H414) only indicates DeBrueys' presence in Dallas after the assassination. I have seen no evidence that he was in Dallas before the assassination.

(2) <u>Chronology of DeBrueys' movements:</u>

Although I have not made a systematic check of the 26 volumes, I have noted the following items:

Sept. 25, 1963: Oswald allegedly left N.O. for Mexico and Dallas. (R731)

Oct. 25: DeBrueys apparently was in N.O., since a report by him "at New Orleans" bears this date. (See section (5) below.)

Nov. 23: DeBrueys accompanied SA Clements in an interview of Albert Bogard in Dallas. (CE 3071)

Nov. 26: The DPD turned certain evidence over to DeBrueys, who took it to Washington on Nov. 27. (CE 2973; 3H414; 3H474; 24H332-344)

Dec. 2: CD 75 is identified in the "List of Basic Source Materials" as "DeBrueys ... 12/2/63 Dallas." Judging from those portions published in Vols. 22-26, this CD consists mainly of reports from N.O. on Oswald's background, etc. I have found no part of this report in which DeBrueys is listed as an interviewing agent.

Dec. 8: CD 6 is "DeBrueys ... 12/8/63 Dallas." It contains many reports from both Louisiana and Texas.

Dec. 12: DeBrueys and SA Carlson interviewed Mayor Cabell of Dallas. (7H476)

Feb. 29 and March 25, 1964: CD's 536 and 777i (on DeMohrenschildt), with these dates, are labeled "DeBrueys ... New Orleans."

June 9: DeBrueys interviewed Orest Pena in New Orleans. (11H353)

July 17, July 21, Sept. 18: CD's 1349, 1351, and 1539c, with these dates, are labeled "DeBrueys ... New Orleans."

(3) <u>Meaning of DeBrueys' movements:</u>

In view of the intensive FBI investigation immediately after the assassination, I feel that DeBrueys' temporary move to Dallas does not necessarily have any significance. I would assume that many agents went there to help in the investigation; it might be interesting to check this out. On the other hand, the following section suggests a possible reason for DeBrueys' trip to Dallas that might be important.

(4) <u>Possibility that DeBrueys attended interrogations of Oswald in Dallas:</u>

The Dallas Police Department assassination file includes a list of "FBI and Secret Service Men at Interrogations of Oswald." (24H284; list otherwise unidentified.) DeBrueys is first on this list (which is not in alphabetical order). Some footnotes may indicate which sessions DeBrueys allegedly attended, but I cannot figure them out.

It is, of course, quite possible that this list is in error. In the index (24H197), it is described as a list of FBI and SS men "Assisting in <u>Investigation</u> of Oswald." (Emphasis added.) It does include agents Hosty and Bookhout (apparently the chief FBI interviewers), who are the only FBI agents mentioned by name in Appendix XI of the Warren Report. SA Clements, who is not on this list, did question Oswald, but with no other Federal agents present (7H318-322). I have not been able to find any further indication that DeBrueys or the other FBI men named (Myers, Carlson, Pinkston) attended any interrogation sessions.

It might be worthwhile to check the Archives for reports of sessions with Oswald by any of these four men, and to find out whether Myers, Carlson and Pinkston were with the Dallas office before the assassination, and what their special fields were. I strongly suspect, however, that the heading of the list (24H284) is a typographical error.

(5) DeBrueys' knowledge of Oswald before the assassination:

As Epstein has noted, there is no affidavit from DeBrueys in CE 825 (Inquest, p. 209). (Affidavits from SA Quigley and SAIC Maynor of N.O. do appear.) This presumably means that in Hoover's opinion DeBrueys was not among the FBI personnel "who, because of their assignments, would have been responsible for or cognizant of any attempt to develop Lee Harvey Oswald as an informant of the FBI" (17H741).

There is no doubt that DeBrueys was familiar with Oswald's activities before the assassination. In fact, he wrote a report on Oswald, although it is not so titled. CE 833 contains several references to the report of SA DeBrueys dated October 25, 1963, at N.O., entitled "Fair Play for Cuba Committee -- New Orleans Division; RA - Cuba; IS - Cuba" (17H795-7).

The Oct. 25 report duplicates some of the residence and employment data on Oswald that is in other FBI reports (17H795). The FBI advised that in N.O. "the only activities in behalf of the FPCC appeared to be those efforts made by Oswald"(17H799). Thus this report (which is at least 12 pages long - 17H796) is primarily, if not entirely, about Oswald.

It should be noted that "RA" and "IS" mean "Registration Act" and "Internal Security" respectively. (Cf. CD 1085k-o.)

(6) Dissemination of the October 25, 1963 report:

If this report is in the 26 volumes or listed as a separate CD, it has escaped my attention. I have asked the Archives to try to get me a copy.

The Crowley affidavit (11H482) indicates that the report was received in the Intelligence Processing Section of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research on Nov. 8. Frances Knight testified that it was "logged into the Passport Office" on Nov. 22 (5H382).

CE 834 lists "the contents of the FBI headquarters file concerning Lee Harvey Oswald up to the time of the assassination" (17H804). It is conceivable, but unlikely, that Item 59 (described as an airtel from N.O. indicating a change of address) includes the FBI report of the same date. If not, it seems that DeBrueys' report was not in the FBI headquarters Oswald file - at least before November 22.

Note that the last-quoted statement may be read in two ways: "everything we have at headquarters which relates to Oswald," or "everything in our 'Oswald file'." Is it possible that this report was placed, say, in the "FPCC file" and at most referred to in the Oswald file? (Bill Turner might know what the standard procedure is.)

Bill Turner has advised that not all material in Field Office files is sent to headquarters. For example, Fain's first report, CE 821, is not listed in CE 834, although a related airtel is item 13. In CE 3153, Hoover carefully pointed out that the FBI investigation into Oswald's possible subversive connections involved " a complete review of our files, both at Headquarters and in each of our offices." The phrasing in CE 834 may have been very carefully chosen. Did the Commission ever examine the N.O. and Dallas files on Oswald? I know of no evidence on this matter.

(7) DeBrueys' knowledge of contacts with anti-Castro informants after Nov. 22:

CE 2973 states that "sources acquainted with some phases of Cuban activities in the New Orleans area advised on November 25 and November 26, 1963, that they have no information regarding" Oswald or Ruby. It is not indicated who was so advised. (DeBrueys was apparently in Dallas on those dates.) This CE bears the initials "WCD"; it is p. 463 of CD 6, which, as noted above, is apparently a compilation by DeBrueys of many reports. It would be interesting to find out who these informants were. (Other sections of CD 6 may be relevant.) It is noted that the report of SA Kaack, 10/31/63, indicates that two people familiar with Cuban activities were asked about Oswald on Sept. 9-10: "NC T-7" and Frank Bartes of the N.O. Cuban Revolutionary Council (17H764).

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